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LENDER

Jones Bank celebrates 20 years in Milford

BY HANNA CHRISTENSEN
scireporter@sewardindependent.com

Marking a significant milestone in the heart of Milford, Jones Bank is reflecting on two decades of serving the community. The bank held an open house on Feb. 29 – March 1 to celebrate.

Miriam Stutzman, the branch manager for Jones Bank in Milford, is one of two current employees who has been with the Milford branch since its conception, and she said it is hard to believe it has already been 20 years since its opening.

She said the time flew by, and she has loved meeting so many customers over the years and helping them with their financial needs.

“I enjoy seeing the familiar faces of our customers each time they come in but also enjoy getting to know the new faces that come in,” she said. “It is always so good to hear when our customers say that they appreciate everything we do for



Miriam Stutzman, branch manager of Jones Bank in Milford, poses outside the bank, which last week celebrated its 20th anniversary in Milford.

them. Our customers are an extension of our Jones Bank family, and we appreciate each one.”

Jones Bank was founded in Seward by Claudius Jones in 1883, human resources and marketing officer for Jones Bank in Milford, Michelle Spahr, said. Its core values are “integrity,” “service” and “community.”

The Milford branch opened in 2004 and

specializes in insurance, checking accounts, savings accounts, certificates of deposit, loans, safe deposit boxes and more.

Spahr said she enjoys being able to help local people with their finances.

“I like that I get to help all of our employees. I get to see everyone at some point in time and help them succeed in their career goals,” she said.

Stutzman and Spahr have watched technology grow within the company over the years.

“Electronic products have really increased over the last 20 years,” Spahr said. “Most everyone does things electronically if they can and want to, other people want to come into the branch and see us and some do a combination of both.”

Jones Bank President Max Wake said Milford is a vibrant, successful and growing community. He said he feels honored to be serving a growing number of customers.

“When a bank customer achieves their financial goals, it is rewarding to know the bank played a supporting role and contributed to their success,” he said.

Milford
FCCLA to host
blood drive

The Milford FCCLA will host the annual spring blood drive in partnership with the Nebraska Community Blood Bank on Thursday, March 14.

If you are willing to donate, schedule an appointment through this link:
https://www.ncbbherohub.club/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/72503

All donations will take place in the bloodmobile in the high school parking lot. The goal is to fill up all 45 slots for the NE Community Blood Bank.

STEPHANIE CROSTON/MT



Celebrate Nebraska's birthday

Fourth graders from Seward County schools celebrated Nebraska's birthday March 1 with a visit to the Seward County Historical Society museum in Goehner. Students learned about Seward County's history through stops at the log cabin, Eberspacher house, District 64 schoolhouse and a 4-H display. Above, Deb Stahly talks to a class from Milford about building the cabin. Below, Lynette Broderick tells fourth graders what school was like in a one-room schoolhouse. Students came from Milford, Seward, St. John Lutheran, St. Vincent de Paul, St. Paul Lutheran and Our Redeemer Lutheran.



Ricketts'
mobile office to
stop in county

U.S. Senator Pete Ricketts announced his constituent casework staff will host mobile office hours around the state, including Tuesday, March 12, at the National Guard Museum in Seward from 10 – 11 a.m.

At mobile office hours, Ricketts' staff will be on-site to assist Nebraskans with their casework needs. If Nebraskans can't get an answer in a timely manner or feel they have been treated unfairly, Ricketts and his staff may be able to help resolve the issue or help them get in touch with the correct people.

Public Service Commission investigates 911 outages

BY ERIC KAMLER
Public Service Commissioner

It has been just over one year since I was sworn in as the Public Service Commissioner for the 31 counties of PSC District 4, which includes Seward and Saline counties.

I wanted to share another quarterly update on the work over the past three months since I wrote the fall 2023 district update.

Many reading this likely may not have heard much of the happenings and work of the PSC.

The Nebraska Public Service Commission is an elected five-member statewide board that oversees several industries which affect our everyday lives including broadband internet and telecommunications, the 911 network and service, oil and natural gas pipeline routes and industry regulation, railroad lines, commercial grain storage licensing, commercial ground transportation licensing and regulation, and modular/manufactured housing safety regulation.

The past three months have been fast and full.

One of the biggest focuses this winter at the PSC continues to be the ongoing investigations

into both the Lumen & Windstream 911 outages from last fall. The PSC held public hearings for both companies where we were able to ask tough questions and hold both providers accountable for the outages.

The PSC dug in to find out what happened and ask how they both will prevent these kinds of mass outages from happening again. The PSC will consider next action steps for both carriers at the conclusion of the ongoing investigations.

The PSC oversight of the State 911 Network contract is one of our highest responsibilities as it is the most critical aspect of our public emergency communication infrastructure. I also joined my fellow commissioners and voted to expand the Windstream 911 outage investigation to include the Nov. 28, 2023, 911 outage in Southeast Nebraska.

In addition to the 911 outage investigations, the PSC also approved revisions to 911 Call Center training standards to add Telecommunicator CPR training as a requirement for 911 dispatchers. T-CPR training provides 911 dispatchers the skills to instruct a 911 caller how to perform CPR on a person until EMTs arrive.

On telecommunications and

broadband issues, I joined my fellow commissioners and voted to establish and launch the application period for the second round of Capital Projects Fund rural broadband expansion grants, which is \$24.3 million in federal funding designated now only for Congressional District 3 applicants.

Commissioners also voted to approve \$3.4 million in Nebraska Universal Service Fund applications for the construction of six new rural cell phone tower locations (District 4 locations include Beaver Crossing).

All commissioners also voted to prohibit all telecommunications providers from using any prohibited foreign telecommunications equipment for use in Nebraska.

We also voted to reinstate a past investigation into Lumen, Frontier and Windstream for service quality issues and customer complaints for service outages, approved new dark fiber rate ranges to allow easier market and industry entry for use of dark fiber, and voted unanimously to disqualify Lumen/CenturyLink from the challenge process of the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program for two years due to them failing to complete a separate grant funded project on time.

In addition, commissioners voted to open a docket to modify and improve the NUSF high cost/rural distribution funding mechanism for our ever-expanding rural broadband infrastructure network. A public hearing on this docket will be held in March.

The PSC also revised the Broadband Reverse Auction Process to encourage further rural broadband expansion and allow other broadband providers to bid on the over \$21 million of NUSF funds that had been allocated for Frontier and Windstream to use that those two companies did not use.

Along with these developments, the PSC also submitted comments to the Federal Communications Commission in support of a national broadband deployment plan and approved the creation of a grant application for the administering of the 211 Resource Hotline program for Nebraskans to call for assistance.

On transportation issues, my fellow commissioners and I updated several railroad safety regulations, approved the renewal of a households good moving company, revoked the licenses of several out of compliance entertainment transportation carriers & approved

the rates of several others and approved a funding request to the Legislature for the addition of a Railroad Track Safety Inspector; a position the Legislature has not funded at the PSC for 12 years and a job that the Federal Railroad Administration has handled during these past years.

The PSC also updated several natural gas and oil pipeline rules and regulations, approved a review of natural gas supply cost adjustment schedules implemented by Black Hills Energy, approved the safety seal fee amount for manufactured homes, modular homes, and RV's, and updated the commercial grain storage facility fine schedule for out of compliance grain storage facilities.

Lastly, in December, our PSC team provided an annual update to the Legislatures Transportation & Telecommunications Committee during an interim hearing.

If you have any questions or have an issue that relates to any of the industries the PSC works with that I or our staff can assist with, please reach out to our office at (402) 471-3101 or by email at eric.kamler@nebraska.gov.

HAPPENINGS

**MARCH 12
BROADBAND TOWN HALL MEETING:** Join the Seward County Broadband Taskforce to learn more about how broadband works and how to advocate for your household needs. The event will be Tuesday, March 12, at 6:30 p.m. at the Seward Memorial Library. For more information, contact the Seward County Chamber and Development office at (402) 643-4189.

**MARCH 13
SOUP DINNER:** The monthly fundraiser at the Milford Senior Center will be Wednesday, March 13, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Irish stew, green Jello salads, bread and homemade desserts will be offered.

**MARCH 14
COUNTY REPUBLICANS HOLD MONTHLY MEETINGS:** The Seward County Nebraska Republicans invite any registered Republicans to attend monthly meetings on the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. (subject to change). Meeting locations may vary. Each month, meeting information

and location will be posted on their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/SewardNEGOP and their website at Seward-GOP.org.

INVITATION TO MEET AT THE GATHERING TABLE: Make plans to meet at The Gathering Table (Milford Mennonite Fellowship Hall at 920 F St). The table is set on the second Thursday of each month for this complementary meal. Come anytime between 5:30 and 7 p.m.

**MARCH 15
INFORMATION ON FRAUD:** A presentation regarding fraud provided by Farmers & Merchants Bank has been rescheduled to Friday, March 15, at 12:30 p.m. at the Milford Senior Center.

**MARCH 23
EASTER ACTIVITIES IN MILFORD:** A one-mile fun run and a 5K are planned at the Welch Park ball fields, starting at 1 p.m. Registration forms with full race day details are available at www.milfordnechamber.com or at Insure Nebraska at 517 First St. Proceeds to benefit Milford

Fun Days. Following the race, an Easter Egg hunt will start about 2 p.m., with three age groups running separately.

**ONGOING
TECH TIME THURSDAYS:** Kelly Moore has volunteered to help people become more comfortable with technology at the Milford Senior Center every Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon. Sign up sheets are available at the center or call (402) 761-3367 to reserve a time.

G.I. CUP OF JOE: A veterans coffee will be every Wednesday from 7:30 – 9:30-ish at the Spare Time Lounge in Seward.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, AL-ANON MEETINGS: Alcoholics Anonymous groups will meet at the following times: Mondays at noon at Living Word Lutheran Church in Seward; Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church in Seward; Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. at Living Word Lutheran; Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. at the Bellwood Mennonite Church in Milford; Fridays at 7:30 p.m. at Living Word Lutheran; Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. at Living Word Lutheran and for women only

at 9 a.m. at St. Andrew's Episcopal in Seward; and Sundays at 9 a.m. at Living Word Lutheran in Seward and 7 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church in Seward. Al-Anon meetings are scheduled at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays at the Bellwood Mennonite Church in Milford and at 7:30 p.m. Fridays at Living Word Lutheran in Seward.

COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP: Come for coffee and fellowship Monday through Friday from 8 to 11 a.m. at the Milford Senior Center. Coffee, tea, pastries and other treats are served.


LUNCH SERVED AT MILFORD SENIOR CENTER: Lunch is served Monday through Friday at noon at the Milford Senior Center. Reservations must be made one day in advance by calling or leaving a message at (402) 761-3367. Meals for seniors ages 60 and older have a suggested contribution of \$7 for regularly scheduled meals. Meals for guests under age 60 are \$8. All are welcome.

YOGA CLASSES: Different yoga classes are offered weekly at the Milford Senior Center,

led by Kelly Haney. Offerings include: Adapted Yoga on Mondays at 9 a.m.; Assisted Yoga on Wednesdays at 9 a.m.; using a chair for poses on Thursdays at 2 p.m. and Next Level Yoga on Fridays at

9 a.m.

TAI CHI CLASSES: Join Tai Chi classes on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. at the Milford Senior Center. Enhance your muscle strength, flexibility, balance and aerobic conditioning.




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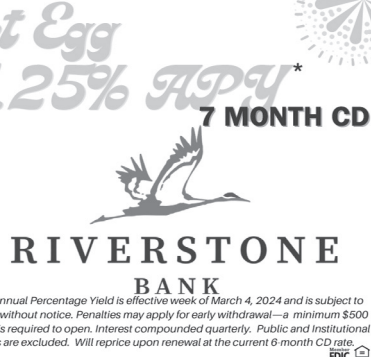

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MAY 28 - 31 • GICC Camp 1• Boys & Girls-Commuter Only
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JUNE 17 - 20 • NORFOLK YMCA • Boys & Girls-Commuter Only
JUNE 24 - 27 • HASTINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL • Boys & Girls-Commuter Only
JUNE 30 - JULY 3 • CCC-COLUMBUS • Boys & Girls-Overnight & Commuter
JULY 8 - 11 • DOANE UNIVERSITY • Boys & Girls-Overnight & Commuter
JULY 22 - 25 • GICC Camp 2 • Boys & Girls-Commuter Only



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Accepting consignments on the afternoon of Thursday, March 14; Friday, March 15; and Saturday, March 16 (all day)

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Scdoris puts wrap on wrestling

BY STEPHANIE CROSTON
scroston@sewardindependent.com

When Jeaven Scdoris graduated from Milford High, he wanted to keep wrestling and stay close to home. Concordia University offered that chance.

Scdoris finished his collegiate career at the Great Plains Athletic Conference tournament Feb. 16 and 17.

One of the biggest differences he found from high school to college wrestling was the talent level. In high school, he said, athletes were at different levels. In college every opponent is good.

He said MHS Coach Joe Schluckebier taught a mindset to not overlook any wrestler, even one you've seen multiple times. That helped a lot at the collegiate level, Scdoris said.

Another more recent change has been making



STEPHANIE CROSTON/MT
Jeaven Scdoris, a senior at Concordia and graduate of Milford High, pins an opponent from Colby Community College Feb. 2.

takedowns worth three points instead of two, a change Scdoris said he liked.

While Scdoris has his

own wrestling style, each coach has contributed to it. He described his style as "more explosive. I like to attack and dominate on

my feet."

Scdoris has been wrestling since he was four or five, he said. He remembered winning his first high school match at a tournament in Friend.

Throughout his time at Concordia, Scdoris has added tattoos, each of which is meaningful. When he graduated from Milford, he had two – his last name on his bicep and a USA wrestling logo on his ribs. Now, he has more than 20, including the Chinese symbols for strength, determination and self respect.

Scdoris said he will miss the atmosphere of the wrestling room and the bond created with his teammates. He will graduate with a degree in public health and fitness and plans to work as a physical therapist.

"If you really enjoy doing it and put in the work, you'll go far," he said.

Building resilient youth and families

Workshop planned March 22 at MHCS

We all have "bad" days. Then sometimes, we have a bad month....a bad year.... What helps a person or child recover from a challenge or trauma, and even have positive growth through it?

The challenges we face in life don't have to decide the outcome of our life. According to a news release from Four Corners Health Dept., being resilient helps a person or child get through the challenges. It can even help to strengthen us.

The good news is that anyone can learn and develop resilience. When we think of the children in our lives, there are things we can do as parents that foster it. Just as there things we can do to build our own resilience.

To benefit schools, families, worksites and others, Four Corners will host a workshop, "Building Resilience to Strengthen Youth and Family," on Friday, March 22, from 9 to 2:30 p.m. in the third floor meeting room at Memorial Health Care Systems in Seward.

The speakers and a description of their talk include:

Carrie L. Gottschalk, LIMHP, CPC: Building Individual Resilience

This session addresses how we are impacted by events and relationships around us, plus the interplay of our own thoughts and responses. Participants will learn practical and

applicable skills and strategies for easing the stress-response system and increasing personal resilience.

Stacy Waldron, PhD, LP: Building Youth Resilience in our Communities

This talk will review the development of young people, as well as focus on what is needed to build youth resilience. By recognizing where and when problems exist, families, schools and communities can provide the structure to strengthen youth ability to cope with the difficulties they face.

Kaitlyn Young, PhD: Evidence-Based Practices for Building Resilient Families

Learn ways to buffer the impact that acute and chronic stressors have on a child's development. Schools and community agencies can support families by building protective factors, such as resilience. This talk will focus on (a) how stressors impact child development, (b) components of a resilient family, (c) how resilient families can buffer impact of stressors on development, and (d) how schools and other community organizations can promote resilient families.

Four Corners welcomes anyone to attend that wants to support healthy youth and families. To register, go to Four Corners website: fourcorners.ne.gov.

The \$15 registration fee covers food and materials. For questions or to learn more, call Four Corners at (402) 362-2621 or 877-337-3573 or email info@fourcorners.ne.gov.

Letters go to voters who might not have a photo ID for voting

Nebraska's new voter ID law, which takes effect in the May 14 statewide primary, requires Nebraska voters to present a photo ID before voting.

In an effort to ensure all Nebraskans are prepared, the Nebraska Secretary of State's office is sending out letters to voters who may not have an acceptable form of photo ID to vote.

About 97% of registered voters in Nebraska already have a driver's license or state ID, according to information from county election offices and the Nebraska DMV. The letters are a proactive measure on behalf of the Secretary of State's office to reach and inform voters in the 3% margin who might not have a Nebraska driver's license or DMV-issued state ID.

The office is sending out about 35,000 letters.

"Many Nebraskans are already prepared for voter ID. For example, if you have a driver's license or state ID, you're ready to go," said Nebraska Secretary Bob Evnen. "We're trying to reach voters who may not be aware of the new voter ID law and may not be prepared. Our office

wants to ensure every voter is informed and ready."

The Secretary of State's Elections Division is working with county election offices to ensure they're prepared for an influx of inquiries from voters.

"Since the voter ID law passed, we've been working with our county election offices every step of the way," Evnen said. "We want the implementation of the new voter ID law to be successful."

County election offices are reporting a smooth process with voter ID in the early voting application process. Most Nebraskans are using their driver's license or state ID number to comply with the new voter ID law. The new early voting applications, which have an area to provide voter ID information, can be downloaded from the Secretary of State's website.

Voters should make sure they aren't using an old early voting application form.

What to do if you do not have an acceptable form of photo ID

If a voter does not have an acceptable form of ID

to vote, they can get a free state ID from the Nebraska DMV. Nebraskans can use the temporary photo ID receipts from the DMV to vote if they don't receive their ID in the mail before the primary.

To get a free Nebraska state ID at the DMV, individuals must present certain documents – one option is providing their birth certificate. If an individual was born in Nebraska and does not have their birth certificate, they can get a free certified copy of their Nebraska birth certificate from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

Voters using this service should do so as soon as possible.

Acceptable forms of ID (IDs must have voter's name and photo.)

- Nebraska driver's license
- Nebraska state ID
- U.S. passport
- Military ID

- Tribal ID
- Hospital, assisted-living facility or nursing home record
- Nebraska political subdivision ID (state, county, city, public school, etc.)
- Nebraska college or university ID (public or private)

IDs that will NOT be accepted

- Birth certificate
- Medicare/Medicaid card
- Out-of-state driver's license
- Out-of-state college ID
- Social security card
- Store membership card
- Utility bill
- Bank statement
- Voter acknowledgment card

The Secretary of State's office urges voters to learn about the new law and prepare ahead of the May 14 statewide primary. More information and education resources are available at voterID.nebraska.gov.

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To register online, visit www.mhcs.us
For more information, contact Jane Rehmer at 402-646-4626.

Memorial Health Care Systems
Annual Health Fair
"Bee Happy, Bee Healthy"
Wednesday, April 3, 2024
PRE-REGISTRATION FORM
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Middle Initial: _____
Last Name: _____
Date of Birth: _____
Month/Day/Year Example: April 13, 1966
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Screening: ☐ Blood Chemistry
☐ PSA with Blood Chemistry
(Prostate-specific antigen male participants)

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Seward, NE 68434



Kiwanis
Club of Seward



56th Annual Ag Recognition Banquet

Mike Meyer, radio announcer, will serve as the evening's emcee

Monday, March 18
Seward County Ag Pavilion

2024 Seward Kiwanis Outstanding Farm Family:
Hamling Family Farms
2024 Seward County Agribusiness Award:
Fehlhafer's Inc.
Ewald and Edith Fehlhafer

5:30 PM - Social
Wine by Junto Winery and Cattle Bank & Trust, cheese from Jisa's Farmstead Cheese, and beer from Plum Creek Seed Services, LLC.
6:30 PM - Dinner
Prime rib dinner prepared and served by Sparetime Lounge
Presentation to follow
The evening will honor Seward County farmers, producers and ag businesses – Scholarships will be awarded –
To reserve seats, call Shelly at 402-643-3636

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Easter: The season of repentance

BY AMY HAUSMAN
Amy@friendsentinel.com

Easter is March 31 this year. And it feels entirely too soon.

My family has some unorthodox traditions for Easter.

My sisters and I grew up Catholic and participated in lent. As three young girls, we would give up things like Kool Aid and Saturday morning cartoons, but as we became teenagers, our sacrifices became more questionable.

I remember a year my youngest sister gave up sneaking out the basement window, my middle sister gave up streaking and I gave up swearing. It was a particularly difficult lent for all of us girls, but maybe the best season of lent my parents had while we were under their roof.

Although us girls all grew up and moved out, we did not necessarily outgrow the shenanigans.

Sometime around 2010, my sister, Mandi, brought her two scent-motivated Greater Swiss Mountain dogs to family Easter where, during the egg hunt, they discovered a bunny nest in front of my 9- and 7- year-old believers. That moment became known as the Great Bunny Massacre in our home.

My Dad found the perfect solution to prevent an incident like that again by becoming season ticket holders to the Creighton baseball team. We began spending Easter Sunday tailgating in the parking lot, before spending the afternoon drinking stadium beers in the first row behind home plate.



I'm Extra, Extra
Amy Hausman
amy@friendsentinel.com

This continued for many years. My Mom would bring deviled eggs because, well, it was Easter after all. Occasionally there would be jello shot eggs, depending on the temperature and who Creighton played.

In 2014, Creighton played an away game over Easter, so we spent the day at my folks' house, but it was far from boring. We used the day to settle a family dispute over where to take our family vacation. While the neighbors searched for eggs on their lawns, my family headed outdoors and paired up in teams: My parents, my sister, Jacques, and her husband, Kelan, my children, Mikayla and Fred, and my sister, Mandi, and I.

Then we unfolded my late Grandma Margie's wheelchair and raced down the circle lane to the neighbor's mailbox, switching partners and booking it back. The team with the best time picked the destination with no questions asked.

My parents were a sure win until my Dad dumped Mom onto the pavement when he clipped an

unfortunate pothole, sealing the win for Jacques and Kelan. That summer we journeyed to their pick: San Diego.

Ten years later, we are still celebrating God's forgiveness. Last year we had an adult egg hunt coordinated by my father. He hid the eggs everywhere. In the pockets of the pool table. Inside the light fixtures. In a four sided Craftsman tool box. In a kayak.

Thank goodness he had the insight to write down where he hid them.

When they were all finally located, us adults cracked them open. Inside each egg was a scrap of paper with a number written on it that corresponded to a paper sack with the winnings. Then Dad dispersed the sacks. Some were full of bolts and whatever he brought home from a swap meet.

Others were bottles of booze. Some were crockpot liners and laundry detergent. All of them brought laughs.

We aren't all bad. I should note we do an appropriate egg hunt with the little children in the family. We also make our Christmas cookie recipes at Easter and just decorate the cookies in spring time colors. We also taught the littles how to do the classic bunny hop (OK, you got me: That happened after the adult hunt).

Whatever your family tradition is for this special time, I hope that it brings you joy, peace and wipes your slate clean.

Happy Easter from my family to yours!

Meeting to cover broadband quality in Seward County

BY SEN. JANA HUGHES
Dist. 24



Legislative Update
Dist. 24 Sen. Jana Hughes
jhughes@leg.ne.gov

This was a short work week at the Legislature, since, there were two recess days. The first two days were mostly devoted to a filibuster on LB1067, Sen. Clement's bill to phase out the inheritance tax.

Thursday we voted on a fair number of Final Reading bills, the last round of voting on legislation, which were then sent on to the governor to sign or veto. This was also the last week of committee hearings, so on Monday we started all-day floor debate, discussing bills on the legislative floor, both in the morning and afternoon.

I wanted to share with you about an upcoming Broadband 101 Town Hall taking place on Tuesday, March 12, at 6:30 p.m. at Seward Memorial Library. This event will provide an excellent opportunity to share about your quality

of service and household needs.

This way, the state will have accurate maps of our broadband service and can properly allocate resources. I posted a copy of the flyer Seward County Chamber & Development Partnership is sharing about the event on my Facebook page and highly encourage people to attend.

As always, if I can be of assistance to you in any way, do not hesitate to contact my office by email at jhughes@leg.ne.gov, phone at (402) 471-2756 or on Facebook at Senator Jana Hughes.

Maybe living in town isn't so bad

BY STEPHANIE CROSTON
scroston@sewardindependent.com



Steph & Nonsense
Stephanie Croston
scroston@sewardindependent.com

When I was growing up, I envied the bus kids. I wanted to be one of them.

After all, they got to live in the country. They got to make friends with other people on the bus, including kids in other classes. I always thought that would be great.

I actually started out as a bus kid of sorts. My family lived in a farmhouse about a half mile from the school, and we were the last kids picked up on the way to school. Our bus was more of a van because there weren't a lot of us.

I went to a one-room school at Macon for my first three years of school. When we moved into town, we lived two blocks from the school, so there was no bus riding.

A Feb. 21 panel discussion with retired bus drivers reminded me of my wish. The drivers, who drove for Centennial Public Schools, talked about some of the students they remembered and things that happened while they were driving.

Most drove for decades, which is impressive. Not many people spend decades at a job, let alone a job that requires two long trips per day.

Some of their memories were more frightening, including driving with

busloads of kid in heavy fog or ice, hitting animals and having accidents.

Others were more humorous, including having a turkey fly through the windshield.

All said they loved the kids on their buses. They enjoyed taking teams to activities and related anecdotes about some of those trips, too.

Those I could relate to. I participated in sports when I was in high school, and we took the bus to away games.

One of our bus drivers was the coolest guy ever. His name was Steen, or at least that's what we called him. He had a TV that he'd plug into the cigarette lighter at track meets. Guess where we wanted to spend most of the track meet.

We had speed bumps on the west side of the school at Franklin. Steen would go very slowly over them with the front wheels of the bus and then step

on the gas for the back wheels. Everyone at the back of the bus would catch air and loved it.

I've heard stories about kids who spend hours on the bus getting to and from school. In some sprawling school districts, that's one of the difficulties of living in the country.

I know kids fall asleep on the bus. The retired drivers talked about waking up children so they could get off at their stops.

Sometimes, though, they'd get distracted and not realize a student hadn't gotten off at their home until a couple stops down the road. They'd go back and drop off that student. Those instances were rare, however.

I still sometimes wish I could have been a bus kid. But living in town had its perks. I could leave home five minutes before school started (which I did and was never late for class). I could go home for lunch (which I also did unless chili and cinnamon rolls were on the menu).

If I forgot something, I could go home and get it.

We could play on the school playground any time we wanted. We could go to the school any time we wanted. Dad would let us in, and my brothers and I would spend hours playing in the gym or running up and down the halls.

How many other people can say that?

Letters to the editor

The Milford Times welcomes your letters to the editor. Letters should be 500 words or less and must be submitted before noon Friday. All letters may be edited for content and should be free of libelous statements. All letters must be signed and include a phone number to verify authenticity.

MT

The Milford Times

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OBITUARY

Harold J. Lohmeier
Sept. 15, 1938 – Feb. 29, 2024

Harold John Lohmeier was born Sept. 15, 1938, and passed away Feb. 29, 2024. A full obituary can be found and condolences left for the family online at www.volzkefuneralhome.com.

REAL ESTATE

Information taken from records filed with the Seward County clerk.
Feb. 16 – 29

Joyce Krska to Venture Property Holdings, a tract of land in the N1/2 SE1/4 24-12-3. DS \$544.50

Holly L. Stull and Corey M. Stull to Lyle B. Krska and Julie L. Liska, a tract of land in the W1/2 SW1/4 2-12-2. DS \$348.75

Long neck Properties, LLC, to Hung Dao and Thuy Nguyen, Lot 1, Administrative Replat of Lots D and E, a Replat of Lots 5 and 8 of Twin Oaks Development in the NE1/4 32-11-3. DS \$573.75

Abby Scheele and Eric Scheele to Jackson Chicoine, Lot B, Administrative Replat of Lot 1, Block 1, Fairway Woods Addition to Seward. DS \$618.75

Pleasant Dale ALA approves purchase of new popcorn machine

The Pleasant Dale American Legion Auxiliary met Feb. 19.

The meeting opened with a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, the Star-Spangled Banner, and the American Legion Auxiliary Preamble. The Charter was then draped for recently deceased longtime member, Doris Lostroh. Fourteen members were in attendance.

The following bills were approved:

- Pizza for school staff at “start-up” in January
- Mailings to veterans
- Payment to scholarship winners
- Memorial gift to Peoples City Mission in Doris Lostroh’s name
- Service on the popcorn machine (which will now be retired)

The following purchases were approved:

- 300 pocket flags
- The possibility of an additional scholarship this year
- New popcorn machine

Fundraising:

- There will be a bake sale at the Legion Breakfast on April 28.
- Ball games will start in April. Members were asked to think about when they would be able to spend time at the concession stand.

Correspondence sent:

- Birthday card to Leora Penkava
- Sympathy card to Marsha Vernon
- Sympathy card to Sharon and Larry Genthe
- Upcoming birthdays: Deanna Portz and Darlene Gerner

Education:

- Americanism essays were due Feb. 29 and will be read by several members this week.
- Five girls from Malcolm applied for Girls State.

Purple-Up! for Military Kids (April 15):

- Show support on April 15 (every year) by wearing purple.
- Purple Up! Day is for all kids who have active military parents - in any branch.
- April is designated as the Month of the Military Child.

- Let’s support the “whole force”
- Bring ideas to the next meeting about a future project for military children and their parents.

Poppies:

- Poppy poster information was distributed to Malcolm and Milford schools
- Members of this unit gathered at the Legion Hall Feb. 24 to create a poppy centerpiece for the District Convention.

Juniors:

- Two girls from Milford were nominated for the Good Deed Award.
- The juniors plan to fold the pocket flags as part of a badge requirement.

Service hours:

- Tracking worksheets were distributed. Bring completed worksheets to the March meeting.

Make A Difference Day:

- Many members bought many donation for the Friendship Home to the meeting.

Farm sale lunch stand:

- Members will provide a lunch stand for the Leon Lostroh’s farm sale, 13600 W. Superior St., on March 16.
- Contact Kate Anderson if you would like to help.

Tray favors for veterans:

- Anderson delivered tray favors to the VA in February.

Standing rules:

- Clarification was reached regarding funeral lunches.

Seward County Legion Auxiliary:

- The 2024 convention was held in Milford on Feb. 10.
- Five members of the Pleasant Dale Unit attended.

District Legion Auxiliary:

- Meeting will be March 9 in Weeping Water.
- The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 18, at 3 p.m.

Support local businesses!

COUNTY COURT

Information taken from records filed with the Seward County court.
Feb. 19 – 23

Mason M. Bisbee, 20, Seward, attempt of a class 2 misdemeanor, \$100 fine.

Ashley L. McBride, 35, Milford, attempt of a class 2 misdemeanor, \$100 fine.

Stephen W. Storjohn, 67, Seward, dogs running at large, \$10 fine.

Joseph T. Pinkerton, 25, Beatrice, driving under suspension before reinstated, \$100 fine.

Dakotah L. Lemke, 24, Deshler, commit child abuse negligently/no injury, two years probation and restitution of \$2,500; DUI .15+, \$500 fine, two days jail, two years probation, revoked license one year and ignition interlock device ordered; willful reckless driving first offense, two years probation; transporting a child while intoxicated, two years probation.

Jesson W. McClintock, 20, Lincoln, minor in possession – ages 19-20, \$300 fine, six months probation; possess or use drug paraphernalia, \$100 fine and six months probation; zero tolerance violation, six months probation and impound license 30 days; willful reckless driving first offense, \$300 fine, six months probation and impound license 30 days.

Adam P. Amescua, 25, Seward, resisting arrest-first offense, one year probation.

Erin M. Stephens, 45, Seward, DUI-alcohol first offense, \$500 fine, six months probation, revoked license 60 days and ignition interlock device ordered.

Mark A. Rasmussen, 49, Dannabrog, attempt of a class 1 misdemeanor, \$50 fine.

Breckin L. Ratkovek, 22, Milford, DUI-alcohol first offense, \$500 fine, 30 days jail, revoked license 18 months and ignition interlock device ordered.

Seth M. Meehl, 19, Seward, criminal mischief \$0 – \$500, six months probation.

Austin M. Petersen, 27, Utica, attempt of a class 1 misdemeanor, one year probation and 90 days jail.

Humberto Ornelas Gonzalez, 44, Wilber, DUI .15+ or refusal (one prior conviction), \$500 fine, one year probation, revoked license 18 months and

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Information taken from records filed with the Seward County clerk.
February

Cassidy Burkhardt, Seward, and Connor Gutierrez, Seward

Carissa Foreman, Seward, and Allan Hemsath, Seward

Amy Golding, Pleasant Dale, and Gregory Mach, Pleasant Dale

JoAnna Collins, Seward, and Kayson Fassler, Seward

Meghan Shruck, Seward, and Daniel Cowger, Seward

Jadzia Gray, Bee, and Wyatt Elder, Bee

Kerry Beyer, Beaver Crossing, and Shawn Briney, Beaver Crossing

Yamile Acosta, Seward, and Joaquin Suarez, Seward

Jordan Clement, Seward, and Jarred Koranda, Seward

Paige Snyder, Beaver Crossing, and James Porter, Beaver Crossing

Amanda Crawford, Seward, and Anthony Bye, Seward

Soybean seed treatment study results

BY JENNY REES
Seward/York counties
Extension educator

I appreciated everyone who attended and shared at our on-farm research update in York last week.

I’m so grateful to all the farmer-cooperators who have worked with me through the years and who continue to do so. We wouldn’t have as much innovative and practical research without them.

Soybean Seed Treatment Comparison: This week, I am sharing on a soybean seed treatment study. Some producers are interested in alternative methods of protecting seed from insects and disease beyond traditional insecticide/fungicide seed treatments. This can be due to cost, impacts to pollinators, soil microbes and the environment and/or human safety.

The grower tested three fields in York, Seward and Hamilton counties via a split planter design for a total of 21 reps. The biological seed treatment consisted of a blend of: 2 oz Phycoterra® ST, 1 oz Heads Up®, 1 oz N-Gage Ultra ST, 0.75 oz Bio ST VPH in 100 gal solution.

In a second tank, 2 oz of Exceed Soybean inoculant was used per 100 gal. The biological seed treatment was applied by the grower. Cost was \$9.20/ac for the full biological seed treatment.

The biological seed treatment was compared to Pioneer’s full seed treatment on two fields and Golden Harvest’s full seed treatment on one field. These treatments were applied by the seed dealers. Cost was \$28/ac for Pioneer’s seed treatment and \$16.63 for Golden Harvest’s seed treatment.

Field 1: Pioneer’s full seed treatment (62 bu/ac) vs. biological seed treatment (61 bu/ac) No difference.

Field 2: Pioneer’s full seed treatment (65.7 bu/ac) vs. biological seed treatment (67.1 bu/ac) Significant difference.

Field 3: Golden Harvest’s full seed treatment (69 bu/ac) vs. biological seed treatment (68 bu/ac) No difference. Combining the three locations, the standard seed treatment yielded 65.6 bu/ac vs. 65.4 for the biological seed treatment.

Soybeans were planted green into rye in all three fields. The original plan was to roller crimp the rye, but the soybeans were too elongated due to stretching for sunlight in the tall rye and we were concerned about them being damaged with a roller crimper. Irrigation was also necessary to get the soybeans out of the ground and growing with the tall rye in Fields 1 and 2.



UNL Extension
Jenny Rees
jrees2@unl.edu

ignition interlock device ordered.

Joshua D. Christian, 18, Schuyler, zero tolerance violation, \$100 fine and impounded license one year; minor in possession under 19 first offense, \$300 fine.

Jackson C. Gregory, 44, Utica, attempt of a class 1 misdemeanor, 30 days jail.

Jayce S. Brown, 18, Milford, minor in possession ages 18-20, \$300 fine.

Amy J. Kearney, 40, Seward, disturbing the peace, \$250 fine.

Paul D. Johnson, 21, Beaver Crossing, possess K2 synthetic one ounce or less first offense, \$300 fine; no operator’s license/waiverable, \$75 fine.

Algirdas J. Antanelis, 32, Seward, no valid registration-car/pickup/stepvan, \$25 fine; driving under suspension before reinstated, \$100 fine.

Ashton C. Hopper, 20, Seward, attempt of a class 2 misdemeanor, \$100 fine.

Devin W. Nygren, 32, Seward, DUI .15+, \$500 fine, 10 days jail, revoked license one year and ignition interlock device ordered.

TRAFFIC

Information taken from records filed with the Seward County court.
Feb. 19 – 23

Derek T. Aspegren, 43, Lincoln, speeding 11-15 mph interstate, \$75 fine; no operator’s license/waiverable, \$75 fine.

Iana H. Hendricksen, 27, St. Louis, Missouri, no valid registration-car/pickup/stepvan, \$25 fine.

Katie C. Wilson, 49, Cypress, Texas, speeding 16-20 mph interstate, \$125 fine.

Manuel Vasquez Cambronero, 44, Lincoln, no valid registration-car/pickup/stepvan, \$25 fine.

Joseph D. Gillispie, 31, Lincoln, no valid registration-car/pickup/stepvan, \$25 fine.

Craig S. Cassel, 64, Friend, unlawful/fictitious display of plate/renew tab, \$50 fine; fail to use seat belt, \$25 fine.

Stephen W. Storjohn, 67, Seward, no valid registration-car/pickup/stepvan, \$25 fine; unlawful/fictitious display of plate/renew tab, \$25 fine.

However, it was interesting for me to see these fields in the summer in a high white mold pressure year, especially in the fields with previous white mold pressure. I never saw white mold impact the soybeans. Any fungal structures on the ground that germinated seemed to be trapped by the rye mat.

Biological products like Heads Up® have been shown by other Universities to help reduce white mold and SDS incidence while ILeVO® and Saltro® have been shown to reduce SDS and soybean cyst nematode incidence.

Hopefully this information is helpful for those who are rotating fields to soybeans this year that have had incidence of disease in the past or who are interested in seed treatment options. If you’re interested in trying a seed treatment study for on-farm research, please let me know.

Also, if you didn’t plant rye due to the dry fall, you can consider planting oats this month if you’re growing soybeans this year in a field with SDS and SCN pressure. Oats was the best small grain to reduce the pathogens causing those diseases according to Iowa State research.

Tree Care and Fruit Tree Basics Workshop will be Saturday, March 9, from 10 a.m. to noon at the 4-H Building in York. Extension Educator Sarah Browning is joining us again. Refreshments will be provided and there is no cost to attend, but registration is requested to the Upper Big Blue NRD at (402) 362-6601.



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Salistean wins home archery shoot

The fourth annual Milford Archery shoot was a huge success with around 320 rounds being shot between the bullseye and 3D shoot March 1 and 2.

The home team managed to win both team awards by narrow margins, placing first in both the 3D and Bullseye divisions. Individually the Milford archers had great success as well at one of the largest school archery shoots held in the state of Nebraska.

Milford had only one champion on the day with Ayla Salistean winning the High School 3D division. Several other Milford archers had near wins placing in the the top two or three of their division.

“All in all, the the team continues to look im-

pressive as we near State Shoot time in a week and a half,” Coach Jim Wissenberg said. “The coaches and archers of the Milford team would like to thank the Milford community, school staff/ administration and school board for all their help this last weekend and allowing this program to continue to grow while making it possible for us to put on one of the premier shoots in the state of Nebraska.”

Next up for the Milford team is a bullseye shoot at the Turpin Center in Lincoln this weekend.

Results from the Milford Invite Bullseye Middle School Girls
sixth - Gracie McDonald, 264
10th - Macie Carter, 260

Middle School Boys
third - Chris Wissenburg, 277
sixth - Wyatt Arnold, 264

High School Girls
second - Ayla Salistean, 285
third - Sydney Havlat, 284
10th- Allie Gerdes, 262

High School Boys
second - Jay Wissenburg, 281

Overall Girls Bullseye
second - Ayla Salistean, 285
third - Sydney Havlat, 284

Overall Boys Bullseye
fifth - Jay Wissenburg, 281
sixth - Chris Wissenburg, 277

IBO-3D Middle School Girls
fourth - Macie Carter, 262
seventh - Madison Buri-
anek, 258
eighth - Sadye Hill, 253

Middle School Boys
fourth - Chris Wissenburg, 273
fifth - Wyatt Arnold, 269

High School Girls
first - Ayla Salistean, 285
second - Allies Gerdes, 273
fourth - Aydenn Freeman, 264
sixth - Layla Elstun, 263
seventh - Avery Langen-
feld, 251
10th- Sadie Frazier, 237

High School Boys
second - Jay Wissenburg, 281
sixth - Jakob Wiota, 266
seventh - Zephyr Mowin-
kel, 265
ninth - Heath Bacon, 257

Overall IBO-3D Girls
second - Ayla Salistean, 285
third - Allie Gerdes, 273
seventh - Aydenn Free-
man, 264



Sadie Frazier of Milford takes careful aim on a bullseye target during Milford High School's archery tournament March 1.

ninth - Layla Elstun, 263
10th- Macie Carter, 262

Overall IBO-3D Boys
third - Jay Wissenburg, 281

eighth - Chris Wissenburg, 273
10th- Wyatt Arnold, 269



Participants in last weekend's high school archery shoot in Milford shot at a variety of 3-D animals targets such as this bighorn ram, as well as traditional bulls-eye targets.



Jasper Arnold of Milford goes over scores on the 3-D target range with a volunteer during Milford High School's archery tournament March 1 and 2.

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Three Concordia University, Nebraska alumni recognized by Lutheran Education Association

Concordia University, Nebraska has announced that three university alumni have been recognized by the Lutheran Education Association.

Annie (Hinck) Ziegelbein '08 was recently awarded the organization's 2024 Distinguished Lutheran Elementary Teacher Award. Nicholle (Harstad) Blomenberg '21 was recently awarded the organization's 2024 Outstanding New Lutheran Early Childhood Teacher Award. Joshua Rempfer '01 was recently awarded the organization's Esther Award for dedication leadership and perseverance on behalf of education in times of trial and tragedy.

The Lutheran Education Association is an international, professional organization that links, equips, and affirms educators in Lutheran ministries.

"We very pleased to join LEA in recognizing the gifts that Joshua, Annie and Nicholle are to their students, schools, congregations, and communities," said Dr. Lorinda Sankey, dean of the Concordia Nebraska College of Education. "We thank God for the opportunities with which He has blessed these educators to serve and lead in their specific contexts.

"Joshua, Annie and Nicholle exemplify the Concordia Nebraska experience and how it prepares men and women for challenges and blessings throughout their lives."

Annie Ziegelbein: A 16-year veteran in Lutheran education, Ziegelbein is a fifth grade teacher at Trinity Lutheran School, Jefferson City, Missouri. She has also served in Morton, Illinois. Ziegelbein earned a bachelor of



Annie Ziegelbein

education from Concordia University, Nebraska and a masters of curriculum and instruction from William Woods University.

"Some of my greatest joys in working with students come from those moments of clarity, engagement, and excitement from students throughout the learning process. I love helping students work through challenging concepts and watching their confidence build as they practice the skills being taught," she said. "However, my ultimate joy comes in being able to build meaningful relationships with my students which allows me to share Jesus' love with them each and every day. I am thankful to be able to engage in meaningful conversations in our devotions, class studies, or in the teachable moments throughout the day. My greatest challenge as a school teacher in Lutheran ministry is not having enough hours in the day to serve in all the capacities in which I would like to serve."

Nicholle Blomenberg: Blomenberg is in her second year of teaching K-1 as an Ignite (multi-aged, individualized learning) Teacher at Concordia Lutheran Schools in Omaha. Blomenberg earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education, with an endorsement in English as a Second Language, from Concordia University, Nebraska.



Nicholle Blomenberg

"Witnessing the transformation of my students as they take ownership of their learning journey is immensely gratifying. The joy lies in the realization that they have the ability to push themselves academically and emotionally, embracing the thrill of discovery every day," she said. "Another profound joy is the opportunity to share the gospel message by fostering an environment where all questions are welcome and safe. In exploring how God desires us to love one another, we create a space of understanding and compassion. These moments of spiritual and intellectual growth create the joy I find in my role as an educator."

Joshua Rempfer: Rempfer serves as principal at Emmanuel Lutheran School in Kahului, Hawaii (island of Maui). He is a graduate of Concordia University, Nebraska, and earned his master's in education specializing in math from the University of Utah. He also has a master of arts



Joshua Rempfer

in leadership from Western Governors University, Salt Lake City, Utah. He has served at Emmanuel since 2017.

Last year, Maui was devastated by fires, and Rempfer was a leader in helping to provide relief not only to school families affected, but also to the Lahaina community as he and others at Emmanuel became the conduit for local, district and synod-wide relief efforts.

Shortly after the fires devastated Lahaina, Emmanuel started communicating with families affected by the fires. They provided meals for first responders, and still provide meals to local sports teams in Lahaina. To date, more than 200 truckloads of materials and food have been delivered from Emmanuel. Rempfer also reached out to church, school, and community members to collect gift cards and donations of needed goods for people in Lahaina.

He then organized groups to deliver the goods and materials. Emmanuel also became the connection point to distribute relief funds coming in from across the United States. To date, around \$800,000 has been collected to benefit effected families.

BC Legion group taking scholarship applications

The Beaver Crossing Sons of The American Legion is taking applications for three \$1,000 scholarships being offered again this year.

The public has been generous in assisting in the creation of these scholarships, which have totaled \$36,000 in awards to date. The scholarships were established to honor the memory of Dan Geis and his many years of active community service, both as a member of The Sons of The American Legion and in many other roles

throughout the entire area.

Three scholarships will be awarded this year to high school seniors graduating from the Centennial, Exeter, Friend, Dorchester, Milford or Seward high schools. Students do not have to be family members of veterans to apply.

Application materials have been distributed to guidance counselors at the above area high schools. The deadline for application is April 5.

NENG Museum looking for hero of Operation Snowbound 1949

BY GERALD D. "JERRY" MEYER
NENG Museum

This year is the 75th anniversary of Operation Snowbound, the Nebraska National Guard's largest domestic call up of forces in 1949.

The historic blizzards of 1949 brought out an unlikely hero to the Nebraskans who were stranded by the storms: the M29 "Weasel." The U.S. Army developed the tracked vehicle for the mountain forces to be operated in a snow environment. The vehicles were given to the Nebraska National Guard to help rescue and bring supplies to people and cattle in need.

There are numerous stories of NENG soldiers operating the Weasel and going out to a stranded farmstead to bring back a pregnant wife for delivery at a local hospital. The vehicle could also tow and haul supplies to towns and people cut off by 30- to 40-foot drifts and blow-

ing snow on a scale we haven't seen since.

The durable vehicle was a godsend to the forces that needed to get through those snow totals to save people.

The Nebraska National Guard is looking to acquire a Weasel to add to its collection. A friend of the museum was able to find a Weasel in Illinois. The Museum needs to identify a sponsor for the vehicle. The vehicle runs and comes with a spare Studebaker motor. The tracks are in good shape. The restoration would include a new paint job and canvas coverings.

There are very few Weasels on display in the country, so this would be another unique artifact to go with the Higgins Boat (one of nine known to exist in the world out of 23,000 built).

If you can help with sponsoring the Weasel or the display to go with, contact the Nebraska National Guard Museum at (402) 309-8763.

Festival rebuilds after Covid crash

Dr. Dylan Teut, executive director of Concordia University's Plum Creek Literacy Festival, was the featured program at the Seward Rotary meeting Feb. 14.

He was introduced by former State Sen. Mark Kolterman who is the Seward Rotarian of the Month and in charge of the programs for the Seward Rotary Club for the month of February.

Teut presented a detailed power point presentation. He thanked the Seward Rotary Club, along with the Seward Kiwanis Club, for the creative undertaking of hosting the "Big City" authors at the Isaak Walton League Cabin with a Nebraska steak barbecue.

The rural setting is found to be unique for many of the authors and has become an annual tradition.

Teut said attendance hit an all-time high in 2019 with 15,000+ in attendance over a three day period, followed by the pandemic cancellation and a continued drop in numbers in 2021.

He attributed the drop to a variety of reasons – the pandemic, staff turnover or being unaware of the festival and the process of attending, field trip limitations by schools such as "one a year," shortages of busses, drivers, health professionals and funds for bussing, professional development requirements and changes in the field of professional



COURTESY PHOTO

Dr. Dylan Teut of the Plum Creek Children's Literacy Festival was the featured program Feb. 14 for the Seward Rotary Club.

development, inflation costs and of course all the "media crazies."

Teut reported that the Plum Creek Literacy Festival numbers were on the increase and that he hoped that in one or two years it would recover fully from the previous issues.

The first goal of his office and Plum Creek is to rebuild the festival attendance base for both Friday's Children's Day and Saturday's Educator's Day. The second is to find alternative ways for children to attend on Friday, and the third is to increase awareness of the festival across the Midwest. He is working with Suzanne Pillen, who is a promoter of children's literacy.

A fourth goal is to find ways to involve a new population to the festival, and a major fifth goal is to create financial stability,

finding new like-minded partners for the support of Plum Creek. The sixth goal is to continue to develop a strong volunteer base from the Greater Seward Area and surrounding communities and the seventh goal is to work hard to keep costs for the Saturday Teacher's/Educator's Day down, ensuring the registration fee is not prohibitive for the teachers or the school districts.

He called for individuals and groups to advocate for the festival, to volunteer towards some aspect of the festival, to assist in making connections and help build the festival, to support the festival with financial consideration.

He concluded with a sneak peek of the proposed new Dolly Parton Imagination Library that he hopes to bring to Seward and Seward County. The program gives

free book to the registered child ages 0-5 every month until they enter school age. Recent data showed there are 1,100 children 0-5 in Seward County, which is the audience the Imagination Library serves.

He felt that possibly there would be a 70% registration rate for the free library books and reviewed the cost of the program. He hopes to bring it to Seward, with the help of the Seward Rotary and other service groups in the community. Questions and answers followed.

For more information on Plum Creek Literacy Festival or the Festival program or to contribute to the Plum Creek Literacy Festival, contact Dr. Dylan Teut at Dylan.Teut@cune.edu, visit cune.edu/plumcreek or call (402) 643-7483.

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NEWS

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MINUTES

CITY OF MILFORD SPECIAL MEETING FEBRUARY 22, 2024

The following is a condensed form of minutes: A complete copy is on file at the Milford City Hall, 402 1st St., Milford, NE, or on the city's website: milfordne.gov

The Mayor and Council met in special session on February 22, 2024, at 7:00 pm. Mayor Kelley called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Present: DeLong, Keib, Freeman, Roth. Nebraska Open Meetings Act requirement met. Agenda approved as submitted. Public Hearing to hear testimony in favor of, or opposition to, and to answer questions in relation to the proposed Preliminary and Final Plat for the Main Street Market Addition, property generally located at the corner of Hwy 6 and 2nd Street.

Mayor Kelley opened the Public Hearing at 7:01 pm. Craig Bontrager provided drawings of the new building. He was appreciative of how everyone has worked with him to make this project happen. It is a big undertaking and a lot of money but this is always something his family has wanted to do. Special thanks to the City Council, Tim Dworak and Jonathan Jank. Mayor Kelley stated this will be a great addition to the community along with updating the area along the Hwy. He appreciates the effort and hard work. With no further discussion Mayor Kelley closed the public hearing at 7:13 pm.

Consider Planning Commission recommendation for Preliminary and Final Plat for the Main Street Market Addition. Dworak noted it was a unanimous recommendation to approve the plat. Council approved the Preliminary and Final Plat for Main Street Market Addition as recommended by the Planning Commission.

Consider moving forward with Edward Jones/John Hancock Retirement Plan for the City of Milford. Council approved moving forward with Edward Jones/John Hancock Retirement Plan for the City of Milford authorizing the Mayor to work out the details of the new plan which will be presented to the council prior to approval.

Consider Modular Fire Training Structure for M. V. F. D. at Lagoon Site: Brad Freeman presented information of the Modular Fire Training Building they are

interested in constructing. The Fire Department is seeking permission from the board to place the unit out at the Lagoon site. They would like to apply and seek funding during Seward County Gives. Dworak noted engineered footings will be needed to ensure the building doesn't fall down or blow over. Council approved the Modular Fire Training Structure for the M.V.F.D. and the M.P.D. at the Lagoon site. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned.

Jeanne Hoggins, City Clerk
Patrick L. Kelley, Mayor
MT — March 6, 2024
ZNEZ

FEBRUARY 27, 2024 COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

Board of Commissioner Meetings are held each Tuesday morning in the Seward County Courthouse at 9:00 a.m., except for the first Tuesday of each month when meetings will be held at 8:30 a.m. Notice of each meeting is posted on the Courthouse bulletin board and on the Commissioner's room door. The agenda for all meetings is kept continually current and is available for public inspection at the County Clerk's Office during normal business hours. The agenda is held open until one business day prior to the meeting for appearance before the Board. The Board has the right to modify the agenda to include items of an emergency nature only at such public meeting.

CLAIMS ALLOWED MARCH 26, 2024

The Seward County Board of Equalization convened at 8:30 a.m. on February 27, 2024. Present: Chairperson: Misty Ahmic Members: Raegan Hain, John Culver Ken Schmieding, Darrell Zabrocki

County Clerk: Sherry Schweitzer County Assessor: Marilyn Hladky Approved minutes of February 13, 2024.

Hladky gave an update of her office.

Convened as the Board of Commissioners.

Approved Consent Agenda consisting of approving minutes of February 20, 2024 and accepting the Sheriff Fee and Mileage Reports for December 2023 & January 2024.

Approved claims through February 16, 2024.

Highway Supt., Jon Regnier gave an update of his department.

Approved an agreement with

Schneider Geospatial for a GIS subscription.

Approved payment of Hazard Mitigation initial invoice.

Approved 80 hours of catastrophic leave request for employee # 010158.

Commissioners gave reports of their activities.

The agenda item involving reconsidering a resolution in regard to the Board of Adjustment was not discussed because of an error on the agenda. Denise Kaup commented on the agenda item, although no discussion took place.

Approved Software Agreement with EKOS to upgrade the current Gasboy Software to a Cloud-Based program.

Approved time change for the Mercy City Church Easter Egg hunt on March 30.

Discussions were held on grant funds being sought by Seward County, and Legislative updates.

Approved the agenda for March 5, 2024 and adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

Sherry Schweitzer, County Clerk

SEWARD COUNTY CLAIMS THROUGH FEBRUARY 16, 2024, ACCURATE CONTROLS, EQ, \$1,856.36; ADP INC, SE, \$2,651.30; ALLO COMMUNICATIONS, UT, \$2,086.24; AMERITAS LIFE INS CORP, FE, \$20,043.67; BERN'S BODY SHOP, SE, \$1,068.00; BLACK HILLS ENERGY, UT, \$3,621.62; BLUE VALLEY BEHAV HLTH, SE, \$240.00; BRENNAN, NIELSEN...LAW, SE, \$1,790.81; BRYAN HEALTH, SE, \$8,079.84; CAMPBELL CLEANING, SE, \$4,625.00; CAPITAL BUSINESS SYS, SU, \$39.14; CHARTER COMMUNIC, UT, \$313.46; ALEGTEN CREIGHTON CLIN, SE, \$22.00; DIAMOND DRUGS, INC, SU, \$513.16; EAKES OFFICE PLUS, SU, \$30.00; JENNIFER EICKHOFF, SE, \$14.74; ENGINEERED CONTROLS, EQ, \$3,425.00; FARMERS COOPERATIVE, SU, \$699.59; FEHLHAFERS INC, SE, \$6.65; GALLS LLC, SE, \$277.13; GBE CPA, SE, \$4,756.00; HELMINK PRINTING, SU, \$520.34; HOMETOWN LEASING, EQ, \$165.44; J S WURM & ASSOC, SE, \$200.00; JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL, EQ, \$332.77; JONES BANK (FICA), FE, \$20,010.78; KIRBY ROTH INSURANCE, FE, \$50.00; KONICA MINOLTA FINANCE, EQ, \$131.48; LEE'S REFRIGERATION, SE, \$69.60; LEGISLATIVE SERV AGENCY, FE, \$15.00; RELX INC, SE, \$222.00; MCHENRY, HASZARD, SE, \$568.75;

MCKESSON MEDICAL, SU, \$38.64; MEMORIAL CLINIC, SE, \$585.00; MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, SE, \$4,795.49; MIPS INC, SE, \$47.80; KRYSTEL NABER, S, \$9.38; JENNIFER NANTKES, SE, \$14.74; NE ASSN COUNTY CLERKS, FE, \$50.00; NE ASSN CO EXT BOARD, FE, \$100.00; NE ASSN CO OFFICIALS, FE, \$80.00; NE HLTH & HUMAN SERV, SE, \$93.00; PEGGY OBORNY, SE, \$12.06; OREILLY AUTOMOTIVE, EQ, \$482.49; ORKIN LLC, SE, \$147.00; PETTY CASH FUND, FE, \$44.87; PHYSICIANS LAB, SE, \$2,621.00; POINT C HEALTH, SE, \$365.00; REDWOOD TOXICOLOGY, SE, \$523.75; KEVIN SCHLENDER, SE, \$375.00; SEC OF STATE - ELECTNS, SU, \$20.00; ASSESSOR REAPRSAL FND, FE, \$20,000.00; SEW CO INDEPENDENT, SE, \$1,440.08; SOARIN GROUP, LLC, SE, \$373.00; ST OF NE DAS ST ACCTNG, SE, \$795.50; SHARILYN K STEUBE, SE, \$375.00; SUMMIT FOOD SERVICE, SE, \$6,931.64; THOMSON REUTERS, EQ, \$1,165.64; UNIV OF NEBRASKA LINC, SE, \$983.25; VERIZON WIRELESS SERV, UT, \$528.11; VIRTUAL IMPRESSIONS, SE, \$36.00; VISA, FE, \$5,338.16; VISUAL EDGE IT, SE, \$44.94; WALL, ROBERT, SE, \$312.50; WASHINGTON CO CLERK, SE, \$37.50; WELLS FARGO LEASING, EQ, \$230.66; WINDSTREAM, UT, \$1,004.49; ACKERMAN ENGINEERING, SE, \$145.00; ADAM ROTH, SE, \$11,500.00; BUTLER COUNTY LANDFILL, SE, \$360.32; COMES ENTERPRISES, SE, \$5,750.00; DALE JOHNSON ENT, SU, \$20,467.93; FASTENAL COMPANY, SU, \$1,353.48; INLAND TRUCK PARTS, SU, \$4,190.06; JOHNSON SAND & GRAVEL, SU, \$18,381.88; MATHESON TRI-GAS, SU, \$864.22; MIDWEST PETRO EQUIP, EQ, \$208.87; NMC, INC, SE, \$8,150.00; NORRIS PUB POWER DIST, UT, \$2,884.45; SAPP BROS PETROLEUM, SU, \$24,256.01; TRUCK CENTER CO, EQ, \$1,178.11; VILLAGE OF UTICA, UT, \$55.88; THEISEN CONSTRUCTION, SE, \$25,500.00; FLAGSHIP PUBLISHING, SE, \$800.00; PAC N SAVE, SU, \$234.33; SEWARD CO CHAMBER, FE, \$2,100.00; NE NATL GUARD MUSEUM, FE, \$3,500.00; VANGUARD APPRAISALS, SE, \$13,643.75; SEW CO HLTH CLM FND, FE, \$17,495.38; FIRST WIRELESS, INC, UT, \$460.00; GREAT

PLAINS COMMUN, UT, \$629.89; HERPOLSHAIMERS, EQ, \$690.38; HITZ TOWING INC, SE, \$128.08; LINCOLN POLICE GARAGE, SE, \$126.03; MOTOROLA, EQ, \$15,600.00; JEFF NELSON, SE, \$1,855.00; PANASONIC CONNECT, EQ, \$687.04; SECURITY EQUIPMENT, EQ, \$1,095.00; SEWARD LUMBER, SU, \$74.99; US BANK EQUIP FINANCE, EQ, \$167.99; 911 CUSTOM, SE, \$1,429.00; NATL CURRIC & TRAINING, SE, \$1,483.62; SALARIES; \$284,545.68; GROSS SALARIES INCLUDE DEDUCTIONS TO; COLONIAL SUPPLEMENTAL INSURANCE; MIDAMERICAN CO WISCONSIN; DELTA DENTAL; VSP VISION; WADDELL & REED

SCI/MT — March 6, 2024
ZNEZ

MEETINGS

NOTICE

A Public Meeting of the Seward County Planning Commission will be held, March 18th, 2024, 7:00 pm, Seward Count Extension Office, 322 South 14th Street, Seward, Nebraska. Notice of said meeting will be posted on the Courthouse bulletin board and in the Zoning Administration Office. The agenda for said meeting will be kept continually current and available for public inspection at the Zoning Administration Office during normal business hours. The Planning Commission has the right to modify the agenda to include items of an emergency nature only at such meetings.

Seward County
Zoning Administrator
SCI/MT — March 6, 2024
ZNEZ

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MILFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Notice is hereby given that the regular school board meeting of the Milford School District will be held Monday, March 11, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. in the Milford Elementary School cafeteria. The agenda for this meeting is kept current and is available during regular working hours at the Superintendent's Office, 1200 West First Street, Milford, NE.

MT — March 6, 2024
ZNEZ

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE:

Regular Business Meeting
Seward County Ag. Society
Tuesday, March 19, 2024
7:00 p.m.
Harvest Hall Conference Room
Seward County Fairgrounds
Michael J. Flyr
Secretary, Seward County Ag. Society

SCI/MT — March 6, 13, 2024
ZNEZ

Notice of Public Meeting

The March meeting of the Board of Educational Service Unit 6 will be held at Wilderness Ridge, located at 1800 Wilderness Woods Pl, Lincoln NE on Thursday, March 21st, 2024 at 3:30 p.m., preceded by a work session beginning at 12:30 p.m. at the same location. The agenda for said meeting is on file at Educational Service Unit No. 6 offices in Milford, NE and kept continually current.

SCI/MT/CR/FS/WR — March 6, 2024
ZNEZ

NAME CHANGE

**Fillman Law Offices, LLC
STEVEN B. HUMAN
LEGAL NOTICE**

To Whom It May Concern:

You are hereby notified that the undersigned has filed a Petition in the District Court of Seward County, Nebraska, on the 13th day of February, 2024, Case No. CI 24- 16, the prayer of said Petition being to change the name of the Petitioner from Bridget Lea Hesper to Bridget Lea Hannon. You are notified that the Petitioner will be presented to the Honorable James C. Stecker, Judge of the Seward County District Court, on the 18th day of March, 2024 at 9:00 o'clock a.m. or as soon thereafter as the same may be heard in the District Courtroom, 261 S. 8th Street, Suite 145, Seward, Nebraska.

At that time any person or persons objecting to such change of name may be present and present their objections to the Court.

Dated this 13th day of February, 2024.

BRIDGET LEA HESER,
Petitioner
By: Steven B. Fillman,
Attorney for Petitioner 507 N. Lincoln Avenue York, NE 68467
(402) 362-3618

MT — February 21, 28, March 6, 2024
ZNEZ

LEON LOSTROH FARM EQUIP

— AUCTION —

Saturday, March 16 ♦ 11:00 a.m.

13600 W Superior St ♦ Pleasant Dale, NE 68423

Just W of Pawnee Lake off NW 126th

'92 CASE IH 7110 Tractor, Front Wheel Assist, Auto Steer, 5002 Hrs, '98 CASE IH 2166 Combine w/Field Tracker, 3202 Eng Hrs, 2440 Separator Hrs, New Rotor in 2020, Straw Chopper, CASE 20" Flex Head, CASE IH 1054 5 Row 36" Corn Head, 2001 4700 Navistar Truck, Scott Box, Hoist, Air Tag, '76 IH 1600 Loadstar Grain Truck 16' Box, 39K miles, One owner, CASE IH 900 Planter 8R36", CASE IH 184 Cultivator 8R36", IH 496 Disc 20" w/harrow, DMI 3250AA Toolbar, 9 Shank, 30" Rows, DMI Chisel, 2010 Schaben Sprayer 500gal tank, 60' Hyd Booms 3pt, IH 24 Hole Grain Drill w/grass seeder & high press wheels, '73 Heston 30 Stack hand w/Hay & Stover Handle, '93 Heston 30 Stack mower w/ Tracks, Heston Powerpack, Kelly Ryan Feed-R-Wagon, IH 4 Row Lister, Oliver 5 Bottom Plow, 400 Bushel Auger Wagon, Water Tanks, Feed Bunk, Gates, Loading Chute, Propane Tank Heater, Lick Tank, No Small Items. Be on time.

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BRIAN SCHWEITZER 402.641.1266

SCOTT JELINEK 402.429.9814

JAY & CATHY CATTLE ESTATE

— AUCTION #1 —

Saturday, March 9 ♦ 9:30 a.m.

Fairgrounds - Ag Pavilion ♦ Seward, NE 68434

Antiques, Collectibles, Primitives, (2) Cow Weathervane Arrows, Chicken Crates, Egg Scales, Incubator, Ice Tongs, Kitchen Utensils, Scales, Pulleys, Lightning Rods & Globes, Misc Crocks, Feeders, Jugs, Bowls, Coffee Cans, Spice Tins, Cream Cans, Adv Pieces, Fishing Lures, Fish Decoys, Butter Churns, Nut Choppers, Hay Hooks, Chicken Catchers, Yardsticks, Horn Weights & Cow Bell Collection, Porcelain Stove & Ice Box, Oak Ice Box, Oak Wardrobe, Dressers, Trunks, Wood Chairs, Dining Table, Lg Harvest Table, Treadle Sewing Machines, Kalamazoo & Rulo Cast Iron Stoves, Pie Safe, Kitchen Cabinet, Oak Phone Booth, Library Tables, Executive Wingback Recliners, Hitching Post, Few Tokens, Wooden Nickels, Cigar Boxes, Cigar Cutter, Husker Pop Bottle Crates, Milk Bottles, Carrier, Lanterns, Paintings by V Cattle, Sad Irons, Maytag Oil Can, Campbells Seed Alfalfa Sacks, Cans, Nail Kegs & Much More.

Visit www.NebAuction.com for full details.

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BRIAN SCHWEITZER 402.641.1266

SCOTT JELINEK 402.429.9814

LANCASTER COUNTY LAND

— AUCTION —

Selling 154.77 +/- acres

Wednesday, March 27 ♦ 10 a.m.

Legion Hall • 126 Ash St • Pleasant Dale, NE 68423

Land Location: 9334 W Van Dorn St, Lincoln, NE 68532
Just W of Lincoln on Hwy 6, S on SW98th approx 2 miles.
Watch for signs.

Legal Description: Section 34, Township 10, Range 5, 6th PM, Lot 11 SW, Lancaster County, NE.

Taxes: \$7394.48 2023, Zoned AG
Land consists of 129.44 tillable dryland acres, 29.84 acres grass.
Tenant has 224 farming rights.
Located 1 mile N of Conestoga Lake.

Sellers: Harlan W Lesoing Living Trust



SCHWEITZER AUCTION SERVICE

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Brian Schweitzer

Auctioneer/Realtor

402.641.1266

Premier Real Estate - Broker



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The Milford Times will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-642-6112. <http://www.nol.org/home/NEOC>.

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• Sales & Service

Bill Saltzman

 Air Conditioning & Heating

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Cash, personal check, Visa, Mastercard or Discover are welcome.

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Online: milfordtimes.net • In person: 129 S. 6th St., Seward, NE

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Private party ads • \$200 or less • One/customer/week
Contact our office for classified display ad pricing.

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NOON FRIDAY*

FOR ALL PUBLICATIONS

* Subject to
change on
holidays

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friendsentinel.com

WR
The Wilber Republican
wilber-republican.com

CSC
Connection Seward County

Statewides

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Help Wanted

THE CITY OF CRETE is seeking people to join our Parks and Recreation Department staff in the role of **SWIMMING POOL LIFEGUARD OR CASHIER**. For Lifeguard, the position focuses on safety of facility patrons at the Crete Municipal Swimming Pool in Crete Wildwood Park. The desired candidate will have any combination of work experience and training that allows the duties and responsibilities of this position to be achieved. Preference will be given to job applicants documenting successful experience in like or similar positions, who have completed Lifeguard, and CPR training. Applicants must be at least 16 years old and be proficient in English. For Cashier, the position is responsible for patron admissions and concessions, checking in patrons and collecting fees, and documenting attendance recording daily financial records at the Crete Municipal Swimming Pool in Crete Wildwood Park. Applicants must be at least 15 years old and be proficient in English. This is a seasonal hourly position. Some nights and weekends are required. Applications are available online at www.crete.ne.gov. You may email the application to jobs@crete.ne.gov or send to: City of Crete, 243 East 13th Street, Crete NE 68333.

THE CITY OF CRETE is seeking qualified persons to join our Parks and Recreation Department staff in the role of **SWIMMING POOL ASSISTANT MANAGER**. The position focus includes assisting the pool manager with personnel, program and facility management. The desired candidate will have any combination of work experience and training that allows the duties and responsibilities of this position to be achieved. Preference will be given to job applicants documenting successful completion of CPR training. Applicants must be at least 18 years old and be proficient in English. This is a seasonal hourly position. Some nights and weekends are required. Applications are available online at www.crete.ne.gov. You may email the application to jobs@crete.ne.gov or send to: City of Crete, 243 East 13th Street, Crete NE 68333.

THE CITY OF CRETE is seeking qualified persons to join our Parks and Recreation Department staff in the role of **ASSISTANT SWIM COACH**. Under the direction of the Head Coach and is responsible for assisting in development and implementation of the team's seasonal training plans. Must be willing and available to travel to out of town meets and will have reliable transportation. We are looking for someone who is passionate about the sport of swimming. Someone that is driven to make a positive impact on youth swimmers in our community. The desired candidate will have any combination of work experience and training that allows the duties and responsibilities of this position to be achieved. Preference will be given to job applicants documenting successful experience in like or similar positions. Applicants must be at least 16 and proficient in English. This is a seasonal hourly position. Some nights and weekends are required. Applications are available online at www.crete.ne.gov. You may email the application to jobs@crete.ne.gov or send to: City of Crete, 243 East 13th Street, Crete NE 68333.

THE CITY OF CRETE is seeking qualified persons to join our Parks and Recreation Department staff in the role of **SWIM HEAD COACH**. Under the direction of the Recreation Coordinator and is responsible for assisting in development and implementation of the team's seasonal training plans. Must be willing and available to travel to out of town meets and will have reliable transportation. We are looking for someone who is passionate about the sport of swimming. Someone that is driven to make a positive impact on youth swimmers in our community. The desired candidate will have any combination of work experience and training that allows the duties and responsibilities of this position to be achieved. Preference will be given to job applicants documenting successful experience in like or similar positions. Applicants must be at least 16 and proficient in English. This is a seasonal hourly position. Some nights and weekends are required. Applications are available online at www.crete.ne.gov. You may email the application to jobs@crete.ne.gov or send to: City of Crete, 243 East 13th Street, Crete NE 68333.

THE CITY OF CRETE is seeking qualified persons to join our Street Department in the role of **SEASONAL CEMETERY LABORER**. Under the direction of the street supervisor, maintains the departments of public works designated buildings, grounds, and equipment. This position will also include mowing, weed eating, and general upkeep of designated areas and buildings. The desired candidate will have any combination of work experience and training that allows the duties and responsibilities of this position to be achieved. Preference will be given to job applicants documenting successful experience in like or similar positions. Applicants must be at least 17 years old and proficient in English. This is a seasonal hourly position. Applications are available online at www.crete.ne.gov. You may email the application to jobs@crete.ne.gov or send to: City of Crete, 243 East 13th Street, Crete NE 68333.

THE CITY OF CRETE is seeking qualified persons to join our Parks and Recreation Department staff in the role of **SWIM HEAD COACH**. Under the direction of the Recreation Coordinator and is responsible for assisting in development and implementation of the team's seasonal training plans. Must be willing and available to travel to out of town meets and will have reliable transportation. We are looking for someone who is passionate about the sport of swimming. Someone that is driven to make a positive impact on youth swimmers in our community. The desired candidate will have any combination of work experience and training that allows the duties and responsibilities of this position to be achieved. Preference will be given to job applicants documenting successful experience in like or similar positions. Applicants must be at least 16 and proficient in English. This is a seasonal hourly position. Some nights and weekends are required. Applications are available online at www.crete.ne.gov. You may email the application to jobs@crete.ne.gov or send to: City of Crete, 243 East 13th Street, Crete NE 68333.

THE CITY OF WILBER is accepting applications for a City Treasurer. Responsible for accounts payable, prepare claims, accounts receivable, payroll, tax reporting, W-2's, 1099's, record keeping, accounting procedures, treasurer's reporting, bank reconciliation, HR, health insurance, annuity, waiting on customers, communicate effectively with citizens and other office duties as assigned. Efficient in operating office equipment, Word and accounting procedures and ability to work independently. This is a full time position; benefit package includes health insurance and retirement plan. Applications may be picked up at the City Office at 110 W Third Street. Submit application and resume prior to Friday, March 8, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. The City of Wilber is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

THE CITY OF WILBER is now accepting applications for Manager(s), Asst Manager(s) and Lifeguards at the Wilber Municipal Pool for the summer of 2024. All Manager Applicants must be certified in First Aid, CPR and complete the Nebraska Swimming Pool Operators Class. All Lifeguards Applicants must be certified in First Aid, CPR and Lifeguard Training. Applications must be received in the City Office by: Friday, April 12, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. Applications available at: City of Wilber, 110 W Third St. Wilber, NE 68465 or online at cityofwilber.com - contact us/employment. For further information contact the City at (402) 821-3233

THE CITY OF CRETE is seeking qualified persons to join our Parks and Recreation Department Staff in the role of **PARKS SEASONAL LABORER**. Under the direction of the Parks and Recreation director, the Parks Seasonal Laborer is responsible for assisting the Groundskeeper in a variety of unskilled and semi-skilled tasks in the maintenance and operation of Park and Recreation programs, buildings, grounds, open spaces and parks for the City of Crete. The desired candidate will have any combination of work experience and training that allows the duties and responsibilities of this position to be achieved. Preference will be given to job applicants documenting successful experience in like or similar positions. Applicants must be at least 17 years old and proficient in English. This is a seasonal hourly position. Applications are available online at www.crete.ne.gov. You may email the application to jobs@crete.ne.gov or send to: City of Crete, 243 East 13th Street, Crete NE 68333.

THE CITY OF FRIEND is currently accepting applications for the Swimming Pool Manager/ Asst Manager Position for the 2024 pool season. Qualified applicants must be of good physical health, must have or be able to obtain prior to pool opening, a current CPR certificate, current certificate in advanced lifesaving. Approximate opening date May 25, 2024. Applications can be obtained at Friend City Hall, 235 Maple St, Friend NE 68359, or on the website: cityoffriend.org. Inquiries should be directed to Friend City Hall, 402-947-2711. EOE

THE CITY OF CRETE is seeking qualified persons to join our Parks and Recreation Department staff in the role of **SWIMMING POOL MANAGER**. The position focus includes personnel, program and facility management. The desired candidate will have any combination of work experience and training that allows the duties and responsibilities of this position to be achieved. Preference will be given to job applicants documenting successful experience in like or similar positions, who have completed Lifeguard, Water Safety Instructor (WSI) and CPR training and who hold a current Nebraska Pool Operator's Certification. Applicants must be at least 18 years old and be proficient in English. This is a seasonal hourly position. Some nights and weekends are required. Applications are available online at www.crete.ne.gov. You may email the application to jobs@crete.ne.gov or send to: City of Crete, 243 East 13th Street, Crete NE 68333.

THE CITY OF FRIEND is currently accepting applications for lifeguards for the 2024 pool season. Qualified applicants must be of good physical health, must have or be able to obtain prior to pool opening, a current CPR certificate, current certificate in advanced lifesaving. Approximate opening date May 25, 2024. Applications can be obtained at Friend City Hall, 235 Maple St, Friend NE 68359, or on the website: cityoffriend.org. Inquiries should be directed to Friend City Hall, 402-947-2711. EOE

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OR Department Supervisor: Full-Time OR Department Supervisor, day position available. Forty (40) hour work week with call. Three (3) years clinical nursing experience in an OR setting and one (1) year experience in Leadership or Charge RN in acute care setting and experience in staffing, budget/finance, interpersonal communication and customer service. Demonstrate proficiency in software application, including Electronic Health Records (EHR), MS Office (Word, Outlook, Excel, Etc. Other applications may be necessary. ACLS required. Reports to Director of Nursing. – *Memorial Hospital*

Phone Triage Nurse: Full or Part-Time RN Day Nurse position available, Monday- Friday with no weekend rotation. This position requires good communication skills as this individual provides phone triage with patients. Critical thinking and problem-solving skills are essential to providing excellent customer service and communicating with patients. Computer skills are required. Clinic Nursing experience preferred. Current RN license required. – *Seward Family Medical Center*

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Memorial
Health Care Systems

HR Dept., 300 N. Columbia Ave.
Seward, NE 68434

or visit www.MHCS.US to complete an online application. For more information call 402-646-4618.

HELP WANTED

The city of Milford is accepting applications for **Summer Maintenance Employees**. Must be 18 years of age or older by May 1, 2024. Hours 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday. Applications accepted at City Clerk's Office, 402 1st Street, until position filled. Equal Opportunity Employer

Crafting leather and confronting ghosts

BY HANNA CHRISTENSEN
scireporter@sewardindependent.com

Someone passing by Wes Luebbe’s school-house building will likely be greeted by a loud thumping noise, but they may not know whether the sound is coming from Luebbe stamping leather or the ghost upstairs.

Luebbe, a lifelong Seward County resident, has been helping people with leather repair work for decades. He also makes things from scratch, including bridles, breast collars and phone pouches.

Luebbe’s journey with the craft started when he bought his first horse after his military service ended in 1975. He could not afford the nice saddles that many other people had, so he bought old ones and fixed them up himself.

His craftsmanship did not go unnoticed.

“Somebody would say, ‘Did you fix that old saddle?’ and I said, ‘yeah.’ They’d say, ‘Well, could you work on mine?’ So, I’d work on theirs, and then I’d go on to something else. I got a lot of people that wanted leather stuff done,” he said.

Luebbe is now retired, but was a welder at Tenneco for about 45 years and uses that expertise to also work with metals at times. For example, he makes spurs and puts silver on them from old silverware.

Luebbe does all his crafting in an old schoolhouse. The schoolhouse was just north of Staplehurst when he bought it, so he and his family moved it to their residence on the south end of



DOUG CARROLL/MT

Wes Luebbe poses with some of the leatherwork he’s made or repaired while holding a frame photo that has mysteriously fallen off the wall of his old schoolhouse turned workshop in Seward County.

Staplehurst, not far from the missile base.

The man Luebbe bought it from, “Beans,” told him he never went upstairs because it was haunted by the ghost of a girl named Laura. He said as long as Luebbe did not make too much noise, Laura wouldn’t bother him.

Beans said in Laura’s days, there were not enough teachers for all the schools, so the oldest daughter in a family would have to teach the younger ones. Laura did not want to be a teacher

and wished she could leave to start a family of her own, however, she was not given a choice.

One day, she was driving her horse and buggy to school in a storm. The horse took off and wrecked the buggy, and Laura was killed. Beans told Luebbe that her ghost has been living in the school’s attic ever since.

Luebbe said he has gotten to know Laura over the years and can count on hearing her make noise if he is stamping leather too loudly.

One day, he and his wife, Suzie, held a party at the schoolhouse after a country line dancing class. They took a group photo, and Luebbe’s brother, Stan, made a wooden frame for it. Luebbe hung it on the wall.

The next day, he found the photo on the floor. He suspected Laura was upset about the amount of noise they made during the party and rehung the photo. The next day, he found it on the floor again, and the glass was broken. He hung it again just to find it on the

ground with the wooden frame broken in half.

He said it would have had to have been slammed pretty hard for the wood to have broken. Stan repaired the frame, and Luebbe decided to try a new tactic.

“I told Laura, ‘This is enough. We’re not going to do any more loud noises or nothing if you just leave this thing alone.’ So, I hung it up, and it’s never been down since,” he said.

Other people have noticed Laura, too. When Luebbe’s kids were in high school, he told them

they could use the schoolhouse to hang out with their friends. However, after hearing someone hollering when no one else was there, none of their friends wanted to come anymore.

Luebbe is not often bothered by her presence, though.

“She’s nice. I mean, I’m looking up at the ceiling right now. I think she should be happy that I’m talking about her nice,” he said.

Luebbe said the schoolhouse is always quiet and the perfect place to relax.

“You turn on your radio or put on a tape that you like, like Merle Haggard, and sit here and stamp your leather,” he said. “It turns out pretty, you put dye on it and it makes a really nice color. Then, when people come to pick it up, they’re happy to get it.”

Luebbe has adorned the schoolhouse walls with iron pieces, horseshoes, coke bottles, donkey and mule figurines, two wooden guitars made by his brother and a variety of photos. He has fixed the roof and paint and keeps the inside as original as he can.

He said as he gets older and leather prices continue to rise, he has been cutting down on the amount of pieces he works on for people. Even then, he enjoys simply spending time in the old building.

“I can sit here at my bench and look down at the river, and I can see deer run or coyotes run or something. It’s kind of nice to sit here and look outside,” he said. “I like it. It’s my school.”

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